of reptiles, and confirms the opinion expressed in my first memoir on *Dicynodon*, as to the "close and important relationship between *Dicynodon* and *Rhynchosaurus**." It similarly strengthens the opinion that the formations in South Africa containing remains of *Dicynodon* belong to the same geological system (the Triassic) as the Sandstones at Grinsill, Shropshire.

In the species of Dicynodonts already described may be seen a progressive advance in the position of the pair of descending tusks of the upper jaw, from below the orbits (as in *D. strigiceps*) to below the nostrils (as in *Ptychognathus declivis*); but in *Rhynchosaurus* the bodies which are analogous, if not homologous, take the place of the premaxillary bones, and terminate the anterior contour of the skull, curving down in the present as in the first-described specimen, in front of the symphysis mandibulæ, and presenting an exaggerated condition of that pair of compound osseous and dentinal bodies which hold the place of the premaxillaries in the rare existing New Zealand amphicœlian lizard, *Rhynchocephalus*†.

There is no trace of the deflected tusk-like bodies, in *Rhynchosaurus*, being implanted in bone.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours truly,
Richard Owen.

British Museum, Aug. 24, 1859.

Note on Bulimus acutus. By Dr. J. E. Gray, F.R.S. &c.

Bulimus acutus has been generally supposed to be confined, in the British Islands, to the West of England and Wales: it is found in abundance on the low lands on the east side of the Chesil Bank, between Weymouth and Portland, and also on the hills on the west of Lulworth Cove. It seems to appear, in the latter place at least, periodically. It is now extremely abundant, both on the grass and congregated together at the roots of the sea-beet, near the coast-guard signal station; but the coast-guardsman, who has been on the station several years, said he had not seen it before this year, and he believed that they had been blown from the opposite hills! perhaps he only meant to say, in such abundance. Now it is even more common than *Helix virgata*, with which it is found.

Swanage, August 1859.

Note on the Opercula of several Species of Megalomastoma. By W. H. Benson, Esq.

The structure of the horny operculum of *Megalomastoma cylindraceum*, Ch., approaches, at its dorsal side, to that of *Hybocystis*, differing from the numerous spiral volutions visible on that part of the thin horny operculum of the Himalayan *M. funiculatum*, and

* Trans. Geol. Soc., 2nd ser. vol. vii. p. 67 (1845).
† *Ibid.*, vol. vii. pl. 6. fig. 519.